



**YUSOF ISHAK SECONDARY SCHOOL
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION
2025**

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**CANDIDAT
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NAME**

CLASS

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**INDEX
NUMBER**

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Humanities (History)

Paper 2 The Marking of the 20th Century Modern World, 1910s-1991

2261/02

18 August

No Additional Materials are required.

1 hour 50 Minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, class and index number on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.
An answer booklet will be provided with this question paper.

Section A

Answer **all parts** of Question 1.

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

Section A: Source-Based Case Study

Question 1 is for all candidates.

Study the Background Information and the sources carefully, and then answer **all** the questions.

You may use any of the sources to help you answer the questions, in addition to those sources you are told to use. In answering the questions, you should use your knowledge of the topic to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

1 (a) Study Source A.
)

Why do you think this cartoon was published? Explain your answer. [5]

(b) Study Source B.
)

How useful is this source as evidence about the Munich Agreement? Explain your answer. [5]

(c) Study Source C.
)

How surprised are you by what this source says? Explain your answer. [6]

(d) Study Sources D and E.
)

Does Source E prove that Source D was wrong about the Munich Agreement? Explain your answer. [6]

(e) Study **all** sources.
)

'Chamberlain was right to sign the Munich Agreement.' How far do these sources support this view? Use the sources and your knowledge to support your answer. [8]

The Munich Agreement

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Read this carefully. It may help you answer some of the questions.

In March 1938, Hitler annexed Austria (the Anschluss), and soon after turned his attention to the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia, claiming to protect ethnic Germans living there. As tensions rose in Europe, Britain followed a policy of appeasement—aimed at avoiding war by conceding to some of Hitler’s demands. This approach led to the Munich Conference of September 1938, where Chamberlain agreed to allow Hitler to take the Sudetenland.

Chamberlain believed that this concession would satisfy Hitler and secure “peace for our time,” especially as Britain was still rearming and unprepared for another major conflict. He saw appeasement as a way to prevent a repeat of the horrors of World War I. However, critics argue that Hitler’s earlier annexation of Austria and the manufactured Sudetenland crisis revealed a clear pattern of aggression and deceit. Winston Churchill, a fierce opponent of appeasement, condemned the Munich Agreement as a betrayal of Czechoslovakia and warned that giving in to Hitler would only embolden him, ultimately leading to a larger and more destructive war.

Was Chamberlain right to sign the Munich Agreement?

Source A: *A cartoon published in a British newspaper showing Germany crushing Austria with Czechoslovakia next in line. At the back, Britain says to France: “Why should we take a stand about someone pushing someone else when it’s all so far away?” The cartoon was published on 18 February 1938.*



Source B: *From a book written by the British Ambassador to Germany, who served from 1937 to 1939. He had advised Chamberlain to sign the Munich Agreement. The book was published in 1940.*

I went to Berlin determined, despite many of the Nazi regime's awful aspects, to do my best to see the good side of the Nazi regime as well as the bad. Above all, I was determined to follow the example of the Prime Minister to work for an honourable peace. It may be true that I lack understanding of Nazi or even German mentality. But even today, I do not regret having tried to believe Germany's honour and good sense. Whatever happens, I shall always think it was right to make that attempt, that nothing was lost by making it. Indeed, we should enter this war as a united nation only after making all attempts at preserving peace.

Source C: *An extract of a private letter written by Oliver Stanley, the British Trade Minister, to British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, on 3 October 1938.*

My Dear Prime Minister,

I know that it will be unfair and embarrassing for you and the rest of my esteemed colleagues if I went public and showed my distrust of the Munich Agreement. I am prepared to play my part in defending the Munich Agreement publicly, but I am afraid I remain profoundly doubtful of Nazi promises and shall do so until I see peaceful words accompanied with peaceful deeds. I therefore can only regard the present situation not as "peace in our time" but as an uneasy truce, which can only be converted into a lasting peace if the interval is used drastically and energetically for the increase of our power.

Source D: *Adapted from a speech delivered in the British Parliament by Duff Cooper, a British politician who had just resigned from Chamberlain's government, 3 October 1938.*

I had urged, after Germany's invasion of Austria, that our country should firmly declare we were prepared to fight to prevent one great Power from dominating Europe by force. Yet, time and again, the Prime Minister failed to do so. The Prime Minister has believed in addressing Hitler through the language of sweet reasonableness. I have believed Hitler was more open to the language of military might. I tried to persuade myself that the terms of the Munich Agreement were good enough, but the people of Czechoslovakia would still suffer as a result.

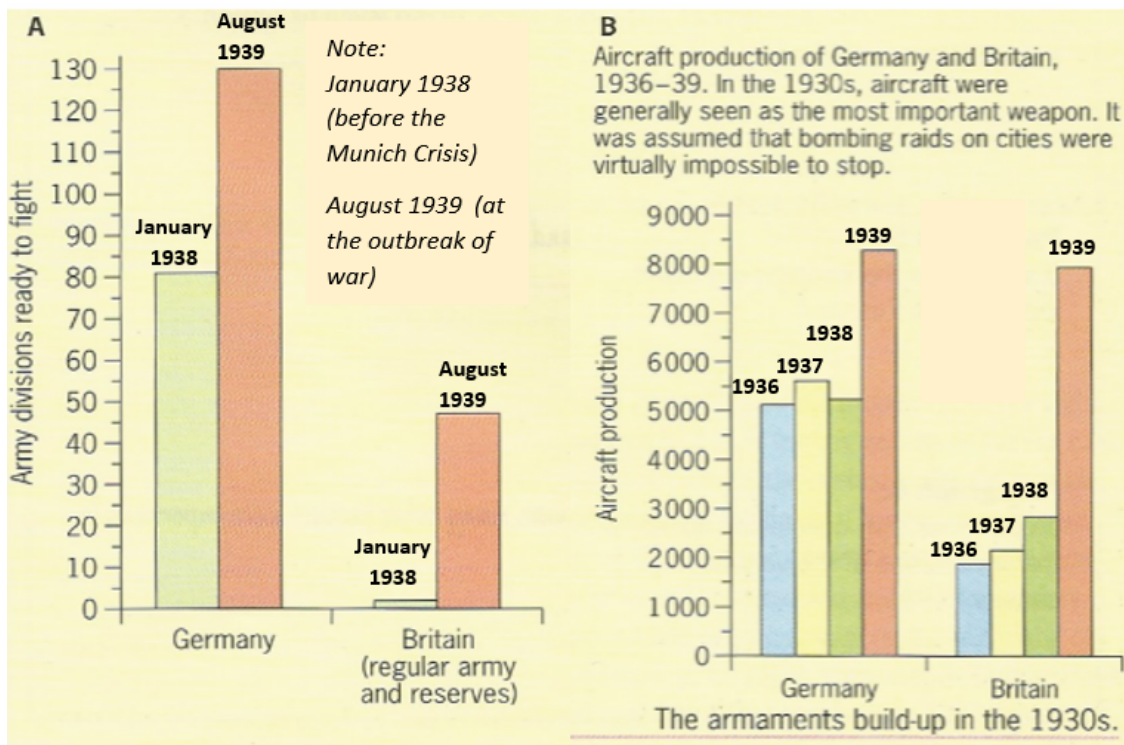
I hope the Prime Minister is right, but I cannot believe what the Prime Minister believes. Therefore, I should resign.

Source E: *Adapted from a speech delivered in the British Parliament by Chamberlain, after Mr Cooper had made his speech, 3 October 1938.*

The Munich Agreement has shown that great Powers can agree on resolving difficult and complex issues by discussion instead of by force, thereby preventing war. We ought to recognise that Hitler contributed significantly to this peaceful solution by agreeing to discuss and reconsider this matter on Sudetenland, when he had previously declared he had made his final decision once and for all. I believe the new Czechoslovakia will find greater security than she has ever enjoyed in the past.

Nonetheless, we must continue our efforts to rearm this country, a programme which is daily increasing in pace and in volume. We must remain on guard, so that we may be ready to defend ourselves if a crisis should return.

Source F: *Statistics taken from a history textbook, showing the level of military preparedness of Germany and Britain in the late 1930s.*



Section B: Essays

Answer **two** questions.

- 2 'Damaging the German pride was what caused German anger against the Treaty of Versailles.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 3 'Japan's expansionist policy caused the outbreak of World War Two in Asia Pacific. How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 4 'Gorbachev's reforms caused the Eastern Europe Communist regimes to collapse.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

End of Paper

Acknowledgements

Source A	https://www.slideserve.com/dylan/this-cartoon-of-february-1938-by-the-british-cartoonist-david-low-appeared-in-the-evening-standard-newspaper
Source B	Neville Henderson; <i>Failure of a Mission: Berlin 1937–1939</i> ; G. P. Putnam's Sons; 1940.
Source C	" <i>I regret nothing</i> ", A Reassessment of Chamberlain's Foreign Policy, 2015.
Source D	Duff Cooper; <i>Personal Statement</i> [Hansard]; Vol. 339; 1938, 03 October; https://api.parliament.uk/historic-hansard/commons/1938/oct/03/personal-explanation .
Source E	Neville Chamberlain; <i>Prime Minister's Statement</i> [Hansard]; Vol. 339; 1938, 03 October; https://api.parliament.uk/historic-hansard/commons/1938/oct/03/prime-ministers-

	statement.
Source F	Adapted from <i>GCSE Modern World History</i> , by Ben Walsh